

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 028999
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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 028999

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ECUADOREANS UP IN ARMS OVER VETO OF KFIR SALE

EMBASSY QUITO REPORTS THAT ECUADOREAN OFFICIALS ARE FURIOUS OVER THE US VETO OF ISRAEL'S PLAN TO SELL THEM THE KFIR JET FIGHTER. ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE OFFICERS BOYCOTTED A FEBRUARY 7 DINNER AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE IN HONOR OF THE VISITING US ARMY CHIEF OF SECURITY ASSISTANCE, AND DEFENSE MINISTER ARRATA, WHO ATTENDED, PRONOUNCED HIMSELF "STUNNED" BY THE US ACTION. SECRETARY GENERAL OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION GARCES SAID THE ACQUISITION OF FIGHTER AIRCRAFT HELD THE HIGHEST SECURITY PRIORITY FOR THE GOE, AND IT WOULD NOW OBTAIN THEM WHEREVER IT COULD, INCLUDING THE SOVIET UNION.
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PAGE 02 STATE 028999

UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AYALA TOLD OUR DCM THE FOREIGN OFFICE HAD NOT BEEN KEPT INFORMED BY THE MILITARY OF THE DEVELOPING PROBLEM, BUT SAID HE AGREED THAT THE PURCHASE OF THE KFIRS WAS JUSTIFIED IN ECUADOR'S CASE BECAUSE OF ITS CLEAR DEFENSE NEED.

EMBASSY TEL AVIV, MEANWHILE, REPORTS THAT REACTION TO THE

VETO IN ISRAEL WAS RELATIVELY RESTRAINED AND UNSENSATIONAL.
(CONFIDENTIAL) QUITO 901 AND (UNCLASSIFIED) TEL AVIV 958,
2/8.)

2. UNITY ELUDING SOUTH AFRICAN MODERATES

EMBASSY CAPE TOWN REPORTS THAT A CAMPAIGN BY UNITED PARTY
LEADER SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAF TO FORM AN EFFECTIVE NEW PAR-
LIAMENTARY OPPOSITION IS MAKING LITTLE PROGRESS. EFFORTS
TO FORM A UNITED FRONT BETWEEN THE UP AND THE SMALL, LIB-
ERAL PROGRESSIVE REFORM PARTY HAVE STALLED, AND SIX CON-
SERVATIVE UP PARLIAMENTARIANS, MIFFED AT GRAAF'S PRAGMATIC
OPENING TO THE LEFT, HAVE BEEN EXPELLED AND FORMED A NEW
SPLINTER PARTY. THE EMBASSY CONCLUDES THAT:

--PARLIAMENTARY COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES
IS LIKELY TO INCREASE, BUT REMAIN LIMITED.

--FURTHER SPLINTERING OF THE UP IS A DISTINCT POSSI-
BILITY, BUT THE PRP IS UNLIKELY TO BENEFIT SUFFI-
CIENTLY TO BECOME THE OFFICIAL OPPOSITION.

--WHETHER OR NOT LIBERALS AND MODERATES SUCCEED IN
UNITING, THE DOMINANCE OF PRIME MINISTER VORSTER'S
CONSERVATIVE NATIONALIST PARTY IS UNLIKELY TO BE
SERIOUSLY CHALLENGED. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) CAPE
TOWN 171, 2/7.)

3. NOT ANOTHER COD WAR
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PAGE 03 STATE 028999

THE FCO'S DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS,
MICHAEL BUTLER, WARNED EMBASSY LONDON FEBRUARY 7 THAT THE
SOVIET UNION'S REFUSAL TO COMPLY WITH EC FISHING REGULA-
TIONS COULD LEAD TO AN AWKWARD CONFRONTATION. BUTLER SAID
THE SOVIETS HAD REFUSED A REQUEST BY THE UK (ACTING AS EC
PRESIDENT) TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF THEIR TRAWLERS FISHING
IN COMMUNITY WATERS, AND HAD WARNED THAT BRITAIN WOULD
"HAVE TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES" IF IT INTERFERED WITH
RUSSIAN VESSELS IN ITS WATERS. THE BRITISH ARE TAKING
STEPS TO INCORPORATE THE REGULATIONS INTO LAW AND TO EN-
FORCE THEM IF NECESSARY. HOWEVER, BUTLER SAID THE UK WOULD
CONSULT WITH THE US AND OTHER NATO MEMBERS BEFORE MAKING
ANY SEIZURES. (CONFIDENTIAL) LONDON 2218, 2/8.)
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Sent Date: 09-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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